

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WSHDC 866

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 0397

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, HU

SUBJECT: IREX AND DEAK CASE

REFS: STATE 031943 AND 32001

1. ROSTA (KKI) AND VARKONYI (FONOFF) ATTENDED A LUNCHEON FOR HULL AT MY RESIDENCE FEB. 18 AND TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE INFORMAL CONVERSATION ON DEAK CASE WITH ME. THEY INDICATED PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE IN GOH ON LINES DISCUSSED WITH KASSOF IN VIENNA. SPECIFICALLY, VARKONYI SAID HE THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE DEAK TRANSIT VISA FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS (TO VISIT HIS MOTHER) IN CONNECTION HIS VISIT TO ROMANIA IN THE FALL. FYI: PLEASE DO NOT REPEAT NOT CONVEY THIS TO IREX. END FYI.

2. I TOLD THEM SUCH PROGRESS WAS ENCOURAGING, AS CONCERN ABOUT THEIR TREATMENT OF DEAK WAS WIDESPREAD IN AMERICAN ACADEMIC COMMUNITY. THEY SAID THEY HAD CAREFULLY STUDIED LETTERS FROM US AND HAD CONCLUDED THEY WERE ALL DRAFTED BY SAME SOURCE (IREX). I REPLIED THAT IREX HAD, OF COURSE, CALLED SITUATION TO ATTENTION OF OTHERS; GOH WOULD BE MISTAKEN, THOUGH, TO BELIEVE DISQUIET WAS NOT WIDESPREAD AND GENUINE.

3. WE WENT OVER AGAIN VARIOUS FACTORS ABOUT CASE WHICH HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED AND REPORTED. I HAD OPPORTUNITY TO RELATE OUR REACTION TO DEAK CASE TO THEIR  
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PREVIOUS REFUSAL TO ADMIT TWO EXCHANGEES WHO HAD

ALREADY ARRIVED IN VIENNA AND TO COMPLAINTS I HAD HEARD MYSELF FROM PROFESSORS IN HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCE FIELDS BEFORE I CAME HERE; ALSO TO KNOWLEDGE IN US ABOUT HEGEDUS, HARASZTI AND KONRAD ISSUES AND CONCERN THAT SUCH DEVELOPMENTS WOULD SPILL OVER INTO OUR CULTURAL RELATIONS. IN MORE DIRECT TERMS THAN I WOULD HAVE USED IN OFFICE I TOLD THEM THAT EVEN ASIDE FROM MERITS OF CASE, TO WHICH WE TOOK STRONG EXCEPTION, I THOUGHT THEY HAD HANDLED ISSUE BADLY. SUGGESTED NEXT TIME THEY HAD PROBLEM WITH EXCHANGEES THEY SHOULD SPEAK TO EMBASSY FIRST. (THEY DID NOT DISAGREE).

4. I TOLD ROSTA HE WAS ABOUT TO HEAR FROM KASSOF, WHO WANTED TO SEE HIM AGAIN IN EARLY MARCH. SAID KASSOF HAD REPORTED TO IREX BOARD ALONG LINES DISCUSSED IN VIENNA. PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE BUT HE NEEDED ANOTHER CONVERSATION RELATED TO DEAK, AND WHAT ROSTA HAD BEEN ABLE TO TELL ME ABOUT PROSPECTS IN GOH WAS THEREFORE ENCOURAGING.

5. PRIOR TO ABOVE CONVERSATION I HAD BEEN THINKING ABOUT WHETHER RIGHT TIME FOR ME TO DISCUSS DEAK ADMISSION WITH FONOFF ON INSTRUCTIONS WOULD NOT BE BEFORE KASSOF NEXT SEES ROSTA. I NOW THINK THIS IS NOT THE BEST COURSE AND THAT KASSOF WILL PROBABLY GET SUFFICIENT ASSURANCES IN NEXT TALK TO BREAK THE ISSUE, IF HE DOES NOT PUT MATTER FORWARD AS A "CONDITION". TEXT OF NEW KASSOF LETTER, INCLUDING POSITIVE STEPS ON TWO ASPECTS, IS WELL PHRASED IN THE WAY IT PRESENTS IREX'S CURRENT POSITION. HOW KASSOF ACTUALLY HANDLES THE TALKS WITH ROSTA NOW MAY BE THE KEY. I APPRECIATE DEPT'S EFFORTS TO KEEP THE DEAK ADMISSION AND RESUMPTION "DE-LINKED". ANYTHING FURTHER TO GUIDE KASSOF INTO AVOIDING A "CONDITION" APPROACH IN HOW HE PUTS THE ISSUE TO ROSTA WOULD BE HELPFUL.

6. I DID NOT GO INTO THE KASSOF REPLY ITSELF WITH ROSTA- CONFINING MY REMARKS TO THE GENERAL ONES ABOVE. I ALSO DO NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE THAT PRESENT STATUS OF GOH THINKING SHOULD NOW BE CONVEYED TO IREX. IREX SHOULD GET IT DIRECTLY FROM ROSTA (WHO I THINK WILL BE LIKELY TO ASK THAT KASSOF COME HERE RATHER THAN VIENNA); AND HOPEFULLY IT WILL BE FIRM BY THEN. (THEY COULD NOT HAVE TOLD ME THE ABOVE IN THEIR OFFICES).

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7. SUGGEST DEPT TELL KASSOF I HAD CHANCE TO TALK TO ROSTA GENERALLY ABOUT DEAK CASE IN INFORMAL CONVERSATION. THAT I STRESSED WITH HIM THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION THAT A FAVORABLE GOH DECISION ON ADMITTING DEAK NEXT DQLL WOULD MAKE. THAT MY IMPRESSION OF ROSTA'S ATTITUDE IS THAT HE IS COOPERATIVE. THAT I TOLD HIM KASSOF WAS WRITING HIM AND WOULD BE SUGGESTING ANOTHER MEETING (TO WHICH HE

SIMPLY NODDED AND DID NOT SEEM SURPRISED). AND THAT I  
THINK THAT MORE MY DEPEND ON HOW HE PUTS THE MATTER TO  
ROSTA WHEN HE MEETS THAN ON ANYTHING ELSE. FHI  
I AM THINKING OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SAYING SOMETHING  
LIKE: QUOTE AS I TOLD YOU IN THE LETTER OUR BORD IS WILLING  
TO LIFT THE SUSPENSION BUT OF COURSE IN DOING SO IT WANTS  
TO BE SURE THAT WHAT WE HAD DISCUSSED ABOUT DEAK'S BRIEF  
READMISSION NEXT FALL WILL ACTUALLY COME ABOUT UNQUOTE.  
AND SAYING QUOTE THE BOARD WAS WILLING IN PRINCIPLE TO  
RESUME THE EXCHANGES BUT BEFORE WE DO SO IT HAS DECIDED WE  
MUST HAVE YOUR AGREEMENT TO ADMIT DEAK NEXT FALL ALONG THE  
LINES WE HAVE DISCUSSED UNQUOTE. IF THE DEPT CAN INDUCE  
A TONE OF THE FIRST SORT WE MAY BE WELL ON THE WAY TO  
RESOLVING THE WHOLE ISSUE WITH GREATER DESPATCH ON THE  
HUNGARIAN SIDE THAN I THOUGHT LIKELY. END FYI.  
PEDERSEN

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